

## Remarks

The Office Action mailed December 29, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 19-38 are now pending in this application. Claims 15-18 stand rejected. Claims 1-18 have been canceled. Claims 19-38 are newly added. No additional fee is due for newly added Claims 19-38.

The objection to Claims 15-18 is respectfully traversed. It appears that the Examiner objected to previously presented Claims 15-18 based on an allegation that the claims were copied from U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0104162 and are not patentable. Therefore, the Examiner alleged that no interference can be declared.

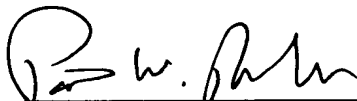
By the above amendment, Claims 15-18 have been canceled. In view of the above, the stated basis of rejection of Claim 15-18 are believed overcome or otherwise inappropriate and notification to that effect is solicited.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant requests that the objection to Claims 15-18 be withdrawn.

With respect to newly added Claims 19-38, Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited art describes Applicant's claimed invention. Therefore, Applicant submits that Claims 19-38 are patentable over the cited art.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. W. Rasche", written over a horizontal line.

Patrick W. Rasche  
Registration No. 37,916  
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP  
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600  
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740  
(314) 621-5070